

ANACONDA TIMES

Proudly Serving Logistical Support Area Anaconda

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

**Skunk Werks creates
custom armor for vehicles
on the roads of Iraq**
pg. 9



**The 46th CSG packs up and
it's out with the old, in with
the new**
pg. 11



Photo by Sgt. Ty Stafford

Soldiers keep blades turning

The 54th Medical Company's maintenance platoon wins awards for helicopter upkeep



pg. 5

Photo by Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda

Sgt. Charles Romans, an aircraft mechanic from the maintenance platoon of the 54th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) of Fort Lewis, Wash. prepares a helicopter for flight.

Navy trains Iraqi medics

By Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda
Staff Writer

The Iraqi army's compound at Al Kisik, Iraq, is an unlikely host for a clinic staffed by American Navy medics.

The nearest navigable bodies of water, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, are located 350 and 375 miles away, respectively.

Though no ships are anchored nearby, the camp is home to three sailors and an Air Force officer who work with Iraqi medics to provide medical support for local Iraqis, Iraqi servicemembers and American Soldiers stationed there.

"We don't turn people away here," said Chief Petty Officer Renato Feliciano, the senior medical representative and a hospital corpsman at the clinic. "If they need some help, and we can give them help, we do it."

The corpsmen run a standard sick call operation every day, during which approximately 500 U.S. Soldiers and over 2,500 members of the new Iraqi army, who live on the base, may visit the clinic for medical care for illnesses that range from headaches and heartburn to broken limbs.

The corpsmen also help local residents from the villages surrounding the camp so long as the patients have military sponsors and the clinic has the supplies necessary to help them.

They also provide emergency medical care to patients suffering trauma or

"medical conditions that are beyond our capabilities," Feliciano said.

"We stabilize the patient if it's trauma, and when the patient is ready for travel, we get them on a [medical evacuation helicopter]. The MEDEVACs get here within nine minutes from when we call," Feliciano explained.

I'm enjoying what I'm doing. I'm helping people, training them so they can go out and help their own people.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Larry W. Barnes Jr.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda

Navy Corpsman 3rd Class Luke K. Damoah (right), the leading petty officer at the Al Kisik clinic, trains a class of three Iraqis on combat life saving techniques.

Moreover, the servicemembers play a vital and unique role in helping train and mentor members of the new Iraqi army. They teach a combat life saver course that prepares Iraqi enlisted soldiers, known as jundis, to act as the first line of aid in the battlefield.

"I'm enjoying what I'm doing," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Larry W. Barnes Jr., a corpsman from the Naval Health Clinic Annapolis. "I'm helping people, training them so they can go out and help their own people."

Though rewarding, the job has its drawbacks. Al Kisik is entirely run by Iraqis, a plus for the overall mission in Iraq because it demonstrates that the Iraqis are becoming more

independent, but a challenge to the few Americans serving there because they are isolated from other Americans.

The remote location and the importance of the mission add up to a unique experience for the sailors.

"I like being in the heat. I don't like to sit around," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Luke K. Damoah, a hospital corpsman who during his four and a half years in the Navy has never spent a tour on a ship. "All we need out here is a PX and I'm good," he said, noting that the mission at Al Kisik often takes him on patrols with Iraqi and U.S. forces battling insurgents in north-western Iraq.

"I never thought I would be doing this in the middle of Iraq," Barnes said. "But I'm enjoying it here, you get to see what the news doesn't show back home. Just the looks on the kids' faces and their parents when we help them - you know you are appreciated when you see stuff like that. You know that what you are doing is worth while."

So the sailors sail on at Al Kisik, even without much water around.

Bush applauds Iraqis on their recent election

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17, 2005 - President Bush congratulated the Iraqi people Oct. 16 for the success of their constitutional referendum Oct. 15.

"On behalf of the American people, I'd like to congratulate the people of Iraq for the successful completion of a vote on their draft constitution," Bush said.

"By all indications, the turnout was greater than the turnout from the last-January election, which is good news. By all indications, the Sunnis participated in greater numbers in this election than last time. And that's good news," he said.

The president said he was pleased that the level of violence in this election was considerably less than that during the last election.

"That's a tribute to the Iraqis - forces who we've trained - as well as coalition forces that worked hard to make sure that democracy could move forward in Iraq," he said.

Bush compared the progress of democracy in Iraq to the outlook of those who have sought to derail the process, saying the successful vote "stands in stark contrast to the attitudes and philosophy and strategy of al Qaeda and its terrorist friends and killers."

"We believe, and the Iraqis believe, the best way forward is through the democratic process," the president said. "Al Qaeda wants to use their violent ways to stop the march of democracy because democracy is the exact opposite of what they believe is right."

Citing the progress they have made and his hope for the country's future as an ally in the war on terror, Bush thanked the Iraqi people for participating in the democratic process. "I thank you for meeting this milestone," he said. "Thank you for doing what is right, to set the foundations for peace for future generations to come."

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360th delivers in Iraq

**By Sgt. Mitch Armbruster
Staff Writer**

Potholes and washed away pavement are common on the roads of northern Iraq. Trash lined medians and blind spots on the roadsides have made the main supply routes of Iraq a dangerous place to maneuver.

The 360th Transportation Company, from Forward Operating Base (FOB) Endurance, deals with the road conditions, moving supplies, fuel and other essential items to surrounding FOBs.

The company has logged over 1.25 million miles on the roads. This is the second rotation for half of the Soldiers with the 360th; they were in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

Twenty-five volunteers from Fort

Carson, Colo., the home station of the 360th, volunteered to deploy with the unit to provide security on the missions. These Soldiers help to man the company's own gun trucks.

"This is a unique situation," said Capt. Troy Kirby, the company commander for the 360th. "We are doing the support for our own guys [and] most of these [volunteers] are combat arms."

Even with all of the support that the Soldiers of the company give, Kirby explained that the trucks are still big targets.

"The Level 2 armor works," said Kirby. "It has saved 10 Soldiers lives."

As a unit, the Soldiers have run into al-

most 40 incidents involving improvised explosive devices and small arms fire on the road. 122 Soldiers were recommended for Combat Action Badges.

"You've got to be flexible when you wake up in the morning," said Sgt. Clint Voss, a Las Vegas, Nev. native with the 360th. "Things are always changing."

Soldiers with the 360th have been ready for anything, a sentiment noted by the company commander and first sergeant.

Unit members care about doing the job right, knowing their fellow Soldiers are there for one another. Volunteers from various military occupation specialties fill the company.

The mission, equipment and fellow servicemembers are equally important to the members of the combat logistics patrols and those working behind the scenes covering the mission

preparation.

"I have to trust that they are going to have everything ready before they go out because there is such a small window of time," 1st Lt. Paul Medley said.

Missions may only last a couple of hours yet the work that goes into getting the trucks and troops ready is constant.

"They keep taking the challenges, step up and accomplish them," Kirby said.

The Soldiers of the 360th deal with many of the uncertainties that exist on the main supply routes in Iraq, but they have found that certainty comes from routine maintenance and a willingness to help their fellow Soldiers do the job.

I have to trust that they are going to have everything ready before they go... - 1st Lt. Paul Medley

CG's commentary: Be proud of the tremendous accomplishment of elections

Last week the Iraqi people voted on their constitution and voter turnout across all provinces greatly exceeded expectations. Whether the constitution is approved or not, the significance is the fact that a vote took place and democracy is on the move in Iraq.

The Constitution is the basic principles and laws of a nation that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people. Our country went through a similar process to develop its own Constitution 230 years ago. Over time that process has guaranteed justice and liberty to all Americans. Over time the same will occur for all Iraqis.

The success of the election is due foremost to the patriotism and courage of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Security Forces who are stepping forward to the front line against the terrorists who threaten their freedom.

The Iraqi government and Security Forces are more capable than ever of providing the necessary security for their fellow citizens to make their voices heard. Insurgent activity during the vote was almost nonexistent and the people of this country are embracing their new freedom.

This will once again be evidenced in December when another election is scheduled to elect a constitutional government. It is hard to say whether the lack of insurgent activity during the election



indicates that the insurgency is dying, but, as democracy takes root, its death is imminent. It will be Iraqis who ultimately kill it.

Through multiple difficult deployments by U.S. and Coalition Soldiers and civilians, Iraq has witnessed two successful elections this year and is well on its way to becoming a democracy. You have been and continue to be

a key enabler for Iraq's tremendous progress since the fall of the Hussein regime.

As a direct result of your year of hard work, and dedication, Iraq now has the ability to provide essential security without an American face on it. It is imperative that we continue to support them and that you continue to perform magnificently.

You have participated in an incredible event that has positively influenced the Iraqi people, the Middle East region, and the world. Your place in history is prominent.

Be proud to tell your children, friends, and family that you were part of this tremendous accomplishment. As my time in this deployment comes to a close, I am extremely proud to have served America's cause here in Iraq, but I am most proud to have served you, and served with you: the U.S. Warriors. God bless the United States of America.

AIRBORNE!

Question of the Week

What do you think the result of the referendum will be?



**Pfc. Lawrence Klenk
3rd COSCOM**

"No matter what it is, it will be positive, whether it goes through or not."



**Spc. Brandy Ruel
1436th EN**

"People are saying it went really smoothly, I think it will pass."



**Sgt. 1st Class Rogelio Gonzalez
3rd COSCOM**

"I don't know what its going to be, but I hope it's great."



**Spc. Angelita Alonzo
1436th EN**

"I think it will be a positive thing, it needs to pass."



**Master Sgt. McDonald Jacob
3rd COSCOM**

"Whatever the results, I hope it's what the Iraqis want."

Son sees mom more in Iraq

By Spc. Spencer Case
Staff Writer

When an instructor pilot stepped out of his aircraft and embraced his mother on the airfield, it may have looked like a scene from an airport in the U.S. at the end of a long deployment. This pilot, however, is hugging his mother in Al Asad, Iraq.

When Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn Norton, a CH-47D Chinook Helicopter co-pilot and instructor of B Co., 4th Battalion of the 123rd Aviation Regiment, arrived in Iraq in January, he discovered his mother was at Al Asad Airfield.

His mother, Carolyn Rucker, an employee of Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) has been in Iraq as a civilian, managing payroll since November.

"She's a little more battle hardened then I am," Norton joked.

Norton realized it would be possible to see his mother since his Chinook often made stops at Al Asad. He soon got in touch with his mother through phone and e-mail and told her when his unit was stopping by using a series of codes to prevent operational security violations.

"She's a little more battle hardened then I am." - Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Norton

He has since seen her four times, he said. During his longest and most recent visit, Ruckers met Norton on the airfield at Al Asad, brought snacks for Norton and the rest of the crew, and told them how Norton was such a good child.

"You know how moms are," Norton said, laughing. He added he thinks everyone wishes their mother could be with them on deployment at one point or another.

Norton spent two hours with Ruckers Sept. 10 as the rest of his helicopter team flew to Combat Outpost Rawah and picked him up on the way back to Logistical Support Area Anaconda. In the mean time, Norton had the opportunity to meet some of her friends and see her living conditions.

So far, none of Norton's coworkers have called him a



Photo by Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda

Carolyn Ruckers, a KBR employee, shares treats with her son, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn Norton and his friends at Al Asad Airfield in September.

mamma's boy. At least not to his face, Norton said. That's not to say he didn't get looks of surprise when he told the members of his crew that he was visiting his mother.

"We were like, 'hey, your mom's here? Get out of town,'" said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Martain, one of Norton's co-workers. "It was pretty cool."

In the U.S., Norton lives in Alaska and Ruckers lives in Texas, so they are used to being away. Ironically, Norton has actually seen his mother more on deployment than at home.

"I've seen more of her here in the last ten months than the last ten years in the States," Norton said.

Brothers serve together in Iraq

By Cpl. Evan M. Eagan
2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)

After serving nearly 13 years in the Marine Corps respectively, two brothers with the 8th Communication Battalion, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Headquarters Group, 2nd MEF (Forward), have found themselves side-by-side in the same unit serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom here.

Gunnery Sgt. Frank Ashworth and Staff Sgt. Nick Ashworth are brothers separated in age by 14 months, but seem more like best friends catching up on old times.

Raised in Grants Pass, Ore., the brothers were raised by their mother.

Their father, a Marine veteran who served three tours of duty in Vietnam, passed away when they were young.

According to Nick, joining the Marine Corps was something he wanted to do since he could talk.

"I decided I was going to join when I was 4 years old," said Nick, 31, maintenance chief, Engineer Platoon, Charlie Company. "Basically when I could say it. Then it took me about three months to convince my brother to join."

Frank was attending community college and working when his brother entered the delayed entry program. Soon after, Frank and Nick were in the buddy program and getting ready to ship to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

"We were supposed to go in on the buddy program, but the recruiter needed someone to fill a spot early," said Frank, 32, first sergeant for Charlie Company. "Even though I enlisted first, he got to ship first," added Nick.

Growing up in a small town that was big on sports, the brothers were constantly in competition with each other. "We were very competitive growing up," said Nick, while laughing. "Whether it was girls, wrestling, football, track, cross country, anything competitive we had to do it."

As the Charlie Company first sergeant, Frank is in charge of more than 250 Marines. He makes sure they are taken care of, staying out of trouble and dealing with them when they stray.

Now, one of those Marines under his watch is his younger brother, who also doubles as his roommate.

Freedom Radio Frequencies



- 107.7 Baghdad
- 107.9 Sinjar
- 105.1 Mosul, Fallujah
- 107.3 Balad, Kirkurk, Tallil, Ar Ramadi
- 93.3 Q-West, Tikrit, Al Asad
- 107.1 Ridgeway
- 102.5 Camp Taji

"Always There, on the Air!"

Once, they see you.
Twice, you're known.
Three times you're dead.

Don't be predictable.



USS Pearl Harbor picks up supplies bound for Pakistan

American Forces Press Service

MANAMA, Bahrain – The USS Pearl Harbor made a brief port stop here today, where sailors loaded 13 pieces of heavy equipment bound for Pakistan.

The machinery will be used to assist the victims of the worst earthquake in that country's history.

Pearl Harbor, a Navy dock landing ship, usually transports Marines and their combat equipment to areas worldwide.

The crew of about 425 is on a regularly scheduled deployment to the North Arabian Gulf as part of maritime security operations, and it received orders to change course to load dump trucks, front-end loaders, backhoes, cargo trucks, a road grader, a forklift and a generator.

"It was overnight," said Cmdr. Jonathan Harnden, the ship's commanding officer. "They made the decision that they wanted to send this equipment late yesterday afternoon, and we were here first thing this morning."

A member of Expeditionary Strike Group 1, Pearl Harbor's posture in the region allowed the ship to respond so quickly, Harnden says.

Pakistan was the epicenter of a devastating 7.6 magnitude earthquake Oct. 8 that left thousands dead and more than 1 million people homeless. For many residents of remote or mountainous regions in that country, food and medical attention has been limited or nonexistent, and entire villages are in ruins.

The United States will support Pakistani relief efforts with specific capabilities. U.S. forces, like Pearl Harbor, and other members of ESG 1 will act in a support role for this effort.

Specifically, Rear Adm. Michael A. LeFever, commander of ESG 1, leads the Disaster Assistance Center in Islamabad, where U.S. military relief efforts are coordinated.

"I think it's important to help the people of Pakistan who we have a long, historic relationship with — one that's drawn even closer with the war on terrorism," said Harnden, originally from Virginia Beach, Va. "We all witnessed the tragedy. We can see what's happening on the news. Our hearts go out to the people who were affected by this." Sailors aboard Pearl Harbor said they felt honored to join the relief effort.

"I feel like we're doing our part, helping them out," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Edward Rodriguez, a damage controlman from Whittier, Calif. Another damage controlman, Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Sanchez from Fresno, Calif., said he would like to do more than just drop off the equipment.

"I feel great (about the delivery), but I would go to help out," he said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda

Sgt. Charles Romans, an aircraft mechanic, prepares one of the helicopters at the 54th Medical Company's maintenance bay.

Helo crew wins awards

Maintenance platoon recognized for keeping flight medics in the air

By Spc. Spencer Case
Staff Writer

Flight medics often say hearing "thank you" from a patient is one of the most rewarding parts of the job. However, medics would be unable to perform their duties without others who rarely have the opportunity to meet the people whose lives they save or get recognition for what they do.

Soldiers in the maintenance platoon of the 54th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) of Fort Lewis, Wash. are finally getting that recognition. They were recently honored for their outstanding behind-the-scenes work with two awards from Sikorsky Aircraft, the manufacturer of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

The Sikorsky Superior Maintenance Award recognizes these Soldiers, crew chiefs and contractors specializing in maintenance, for outstanding performance while maintaining the aircraft.

The Sikorsky Milestone Award recognizes the entire company for having over 6,000 flight hours, and over 3,000 medical evacuation missions, this calendar year, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Jesse Summers, the field service representative for the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

Capt. Michael Myers, the maintenance platoon officer for the 54th, added each maintenance Soldier, crew chief and civilian contractor specializing in heli-

"It's not about the glory. It's about saving people's lives." - Spc. Charles Kirchmeyer

copter maintenance will be presented with a plaque later this month. He and other leaders say the award was well deserved.

"I would trust no one else with my aircraft," Myers said.

"They have excelled over anything I've asked them to do," added Sgt. 1st Class Larry Depriest, the maintenance platoon sergeant. "It's a thankless job."

The platoon's responsibilities include performing corrosion control inspection for each of their 18 helicopters every 100 hours of flight time.

During these inspections, they take the panels off the aircraft from nose to tail, tediously looking for signs of corrosion, then wash it thoroughly. They also do more complicated maintenance and occasionally send out a Down Aircraft Recovery Team (DART) when an aircraft cannot safely be flown to LSA Anaconda for repairs.

Failure to do any one of these tasks can mean loss of life, Myers said.

Adding even more pressure, the platoon is only manned to take care of 12 helicopters, but they must maintain 18. For these Soldiers, this has meant long

days, with days off few and far between. They've totaled about 4,500 work hours since they arrived in December, Depriest said.

"There is no set 'go home' time for us any day," Depriest said, adding that the platoon has stayed at work for as long as 16 hours to complete a mission.

Despite the challenges, maintenance Soldiers still managed to exceed Army standards. The Department of the Army only requires an operational readiness rate of 75 percent, meaning each aircraft is mission ready 75 percent of the time. Since their deployment in December, the unit has maintained an operational readiness rate of 80 percent.

Earlier in the year, another Sikorsky award was given to Sgt. Rachel Underwood of the 54th for recognizing a potentially life-threatening problem before it became too late. While at Forward Operating Base Caldwell, Underwood realized that the tail rudder plates were too loose. A DART team was called to fix the problem. It was later discovered that the problem would have led to a potentially catastrophic crash had it not been fixed.

While others take to the skies on medical evacuation missions, maintenance Soldiers usually remain in an air hanger to keep the Black Hawk helicopters flying safely.

"It's not about the glory," said Spc. Charles Kirchmeyer, a mechanic of the 54th. "It's about saving people's lives."

Equal opportunity classes encourage communication

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
Staff Writer

The term ‘equal opportunity’ refers to many things in the U.S. Army, and members of the 1st Corps Support Command EO team run classes to train equal opportunity representatives on all the different facets.

“I think that equal opportunity is important, because we are a diverse force. You want to make sure that all Soldiers have the opportunity to obtain rank, attend

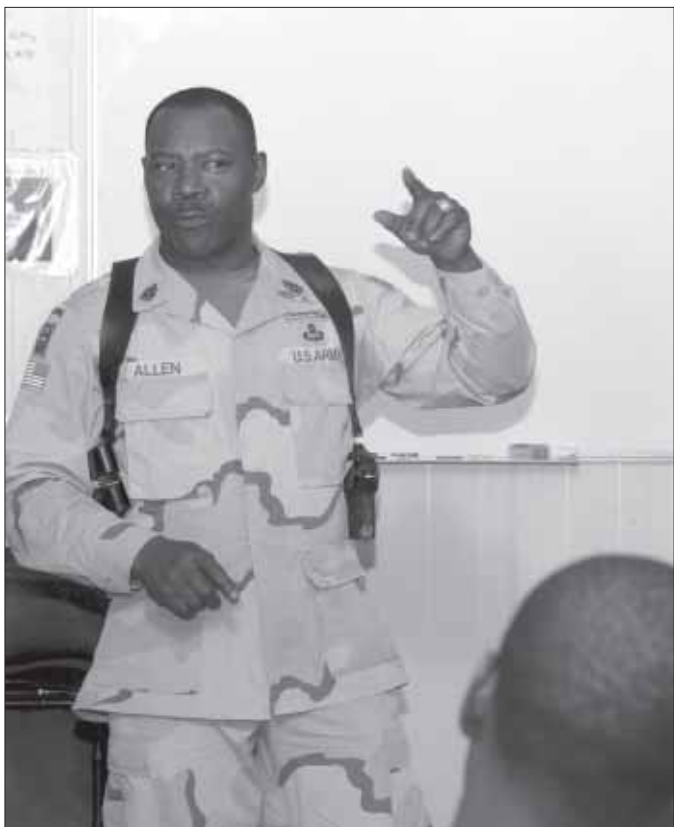


Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen addresses the 1st COSCOM Equal Opportunity Representative Class participants during a short speech on Sept. 28.

schools, and be able to hold any kind of position that they qualify for,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Romeu, the equal opportunity advisor of the 507th Corps Support Group from Fort Bragg, N.C.

1st COSCOM ran at least one class a month during their deployment to Iraq, training over 200 Soldiers on how to effectively advise and aid fellow Soldiers on equal opportunity matters.

The Equal Opportunity Representative Course is a two-week long course condensed to a one-week course due to mission requirements.

The class teaches participants what the equal opportunity program is, and promotes respect for each other’s culture, background and ethnicity. Students receive a certificate signed by Brig. Gen. Yves Fontaine, 1st COSCOM commander, upon successful completion of the course. This gives them promotion points, Romeu said.

“The class is very detailed,” said Sgt. Jonathan A. Burell, a participant in the September class from A Co., 50th Signal Battalion. Students receive handouts and a copy of Army Regulation 600-20, regarding equal opportunity. They are assigned homework, and have to pass a closed-book test on the last day. “If I knew they were going to give us homework, I wouldn’t have come,” joked Burell. His commander ‘nominated’ him for the course.

Students in the class seem to enjoy interacting with each other and discussing the different issues the instructors present to them.

“This class shows you, that even though you don’t think you have prejudices, everybody does, in some way, shape or form,” Burell said. “I enjoyed it, I learned a lot of different things.”

Students learn about perception, stereotyping, racism, sexism and conflict management, among many other topics.

Students are not always comfortable with every topic they have to talk about in the class. At times it is hard for Soldiers to open up and talk about these things, Romeu said.

Public speaking is not as easy as it may seem. Students spend some time giving impromptu speeches to their classmates. Each student has a topic. They have only 30 seconds to think about what to share with the class in a three to five minute speech. Some of the topics include women in the military, my state, black people, white people and even the confederate flag.

This is designed to prepare them to talk to their commander, summarizing the ‘meat and potatoes’ of what they need to say in a few minutes effectively, Sgt. 1st Class Richard L. Weldon, the equal opportunity advisor of 1st COSCOM, explained.

“I think that the support from the commanders has been incredible. Not only dealing with the representatives and by sending the Soldiers to the course, but also supporting us on the ethnic observances,” Romeu said.

To show support for the program, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen, 1st COSCOM command sergeant major showed up during the September class.

“He is a regular visitor,” Weldon said.

Keeping with class standards, Allen gave his own three to five minute speech outlining what he and the commanding general of the 1st COSCOM expect from all equal opportunity representatives.

“We don’t expect you to be experts on anything. We don’t expect you to fix any of that stuff. We expect you to listen to what Soldiers and leaders have to say, and get those Soldiers to the agents that can fix their problems,” Allen said. “When you travel and you are out there talking to the Soldiers, you need to put your personal biases aside...use your God-given common sense.”

Students even had the opportunity to analyze what their command sergeant major did well in his speech, and what he needed to improve on.

The instructors hope that at the end of the course students will have a much better understanding about what is meant by equal opportunity in the U.S. Army.

“Equal opportunity is about leadership. There is a big myth that we are all about sensitivity. We are leaders, and we are here to help Soldiers and help the command to enforce an equal opportunity policy,” Romeu said.

59th Quartermaster runs ‘fuel farm’

By Sgt. Mitch Armbruster
Staff Writer

Vehicles lined up while their drivers waited to fill their tanks. Fuel service is a large operation on the forward operating bases (FOBs) in Iraq.

The 59th Quartermaster Company runs the fuel point on FOB Endurance to keep all military, civilian contractors, and third country national vehicles filled with fuel.

“We provide fuel to northern Iraq,” said Sgt. Rudy Madrid, a shift leader for the unit.

The fuel system, affectionately known as the “fuel farm,” holds 3.1 million gallons of fuel from Turkey. According to Madrid, this is the largest Army run fuel point in theater.

“Without fuel the Army doesn’t move,” said Spc. David Robledo, a petroleum supply specialist with the 59th.

Third country nationals bring the fuel to the FOB, which is then downloaded to fuel bags. FOB Endurance has over 60 bags holding 50,000 gallons per bag.

From the bags, the company can issue bulk fuel to the units going on combat logistics patrols as well as sustain the FOB’s fuel needs.

“Nothing moves without the fuel. Aircraft and ground vehicles will not move without the fuel,” said Pfc. John Pyles, a petroleum supply specialist with the 59th. “I would consider our job very important.”

The 59th has 24 Soldiers and fills an average of 75 vehicles a day but the traffic can be unpredictable. The Soldiers have dealt with as many as 160 vehicles in a 12-hour shift.

“It makes me feel good to be here and know that we are going to help the Iraqi people in the long run,” said Pyles. “They are in a time of need right now and we are helping them establish their government.”

Fuel drives the machines that allow Coalition Forces and civilian contractors to give back to the Iraqi people. Fuel supports military operations that will give the Iraqi citizens a starting point to make their country better.



Photo by Sgt. Mitch Armbruster

Spc. David Robledo, a petroleum supply specialist with the 59th Quartermaster Company, calls up the next truck for fueling at FOB Endurance.

LSA ANACONDA Dining Facility Hours of Operation

DFAC 1

Breakfast	6 a.m. to 9 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Dinner	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Late Night	2 a.m. to 5 a.m.

DFACs 2 & 3

Breakfast	6 a.m. to 9 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Dinner	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Late Night	11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

DFAC 4

Breakfast	5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Lunch	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dinner	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Late Night	11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The DFAC hours for all locations are seven days a week. All patrons must be in the proper uniform and be able to present appropriate identification.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda

From Left: Ali Jabbar (25), Abbas Mahadi (24), Ali Hassan (30), and Zaman Sabitt Uhid (29), all members of the 2nd Motorized Transportation Regiment, pose for a photo during a mission to Basra in support of British forces there. Though the four jundis are from southern Iraq, their background and reasons for joining are as diverse as Iraq itself.

Jundis talk about reasons for joining

By Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda
Staff Writer

For many soldiers with the new Iraqi army, military service comes with a lot of emotional baggage. The jundis, as lower enlisted are known, give personal reasons for joining the army that vary from fleeing military oppression under Saddam Hussein's regime to avenging the murder of family members by foreign insurgents.

Abbas Mahadi, a security sergeant with the 2nd Motorized Transportation Regiment, is an example. The 24-year-old resident of Basra joined the new Iraqi army after Saddam murdered his uncle and banned his family from military service. Abbas' uncle taught history and questioned in his classes whether Saddam had abandoned the true teachings of Islam.

"All he wanted to do was teach the truth of Islam," Abbas said with the aide of an interpreter. "Saddam had him killed for it."

Not only was Abbas' uncle murdered, but his family was banned from any meaningful public office, including any type of military service.

Since Saddam's fall, Abbas family has returned to the military with a vengeance. His brother is an infantry soldier serving

in Baghdad and several members of his extended family serve in the military police or the army.

"We want to help our country. We want to help the Iraqi people," Abbas said. "The money is not important to me, what's important is [to] protect my family."

Unlike Abbas, Ali Jabbar was able to, and did, serve in the military under Saddam's regime. He too has a personal reason to return to the service.

"Insurgents killed my brother a year and a half ago," said Jabbar, a 25-year-old from Nasareah and who is now a truck driver with the 2nd MTR. "It makes sense for me to join because I want to fight the insurgents. They killed my brother and many other people," he said with the help of an interpreter.

Ali served for three years in the military police with the old army. After Saddam's fall, he and three of his brothers decided to serve. His brothers joined the police force working in Nasareah, and one of them was killed by an improvised explosive device while on patrol shortly thereafter.

"They don't care who they kill," Ali said in reference to the insurgents. "They just want [to] make noise and [disruption]."

Abbas and Ali are part of a four-man-

crew that runs one of the 2nd MTR's trucks. During the past few months, the jundis have been hauling supplies throughout Iraq, mainly while supporting coalition forces in the south. The other two crew members, Zaman Sabitt Uhid and Ali Hassan have similar stories.

Zaman, a 29-year-old resident of Basra, said he too had served in the old army.

"In the old army you could not speak with freedom," Zaman said with the help of an interpreter. He was an infantry soldier for over three years. "We were scared of them," he said of Saddam's handpicked military leadership. "If you said something wrong, you went to jail. Now it's different."

Though excited to be part of a new army, the jundis are not blind to the task at hand. They know that the work ahead is difficult and threatening to them and their families. In August, while on a combat logistics patrol through Abu Graib, the jundis came under small arms fire from insurgents. Before that incident, they lost a fellow soldier when an IED detonated and disabled a vehicle.

Moreover, they said that there is still much to be resolved internally. One warned that there may still be "some left-over corruption" from the old army. Yet they all agreed that progress was already evident. They have never dropped a

mission, supporting both coalition and Iraqi military operations throughout Iraq.

"They are doing great," said Sgt. 1st Class David Worth, a U.S. trainer for the 2nd MTR, noting that the jundis have exceeded the trainers' expectations at both the job specific and the tactical level. "They keep moving [when under contact] and anything that is coming their way is going to get shot at."

Worth said he knows that the jundis still need to improve. He said that like any other military, the new Iraqi army requires continuous training. He also noted that one of their strengths is how emotional they are about their job.

"They are very emotional. Some of them are the most emotional people I've ever met in my life," Worth said.

Given their history, one has to wonder whether the dramas that have led jundis like Abbas and Ali to serve could interfere with their work down the road. For example, how would the jundis react should they capture an insurgent alive?

"I have a higher ranking [person] than me so I have to follow their order," Ali replied, saying he would not let his personal feelings toward the insurgents interfere with his mission. "But yes, it would be hard."

In conclusion, the jundis have been doing a great job and will succeed.

THE ART OF WAR

An art club at LSA Anaconda gets together once a week to express themselves visually, and people in the States are noticing.

By Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda
Staff Writer

Though it started from scratch, the art club at Logistical Support Area Anaconda has produced some fine art that is attracting attention at American museums.

After nearly eight months of continuous weekly meetings, the organization is looking for a new leader and an increase in membership.

Last February Leslie Ritchie arrived at LSA Anaconda to work as a Morale Welfare and Recreation technician at the East Recreation Center. One of the first things she noticed was that the walls were bare and that everything was plain.

“The place was dull,” Ritchie said while at the center. “So I had an art contest and I was actually surprised to see the turn out.”

Eight Soldiers and civilians entered art pieces for Ritchie’s contest and she put the top three pieces on display. That’s when an employee of the Department of Defense noticed a piece by Spc. Jesse Link, a signal support systems specialist with the 463rd Engineer Battalion.

“Joel Dusek (the contractor) saw the painting and took a picture and sent it to his mom back in the states. She works for a museum,” Ritchie explained.

A few days later, Ritchie got an e-mail from Pamela Dusek, the arts program supervisor at the Yuma Arts Center Museum, in Yuma, Ariz.

“She wanted to know if I could send her a couple of the paintings for a display,” Ritchie said.

Ritchie sent some of the art club’s work, and the museum ran an exhibit featuring among other art, Link’s untitled piece.

The museum’s interest in the Soldiers’ artwork is in sync with a wave of attention that military art has recently received. Last spring, national news magazines published cover articles on the impact that the war has had on artists serving in the military.

Some of the articles suggested that the current war on terror has inspired servicemembers to write and produce art ranging from “Soldiers’ Rap” to country songs about Iraq.

While readers may have been surprised to find the popularity of art among Soldiers, Al Haener, a civilian contractor working at Anaconda who has been leading the LSA’s art club, said the current military art wave is simply history repeating itself.

“Art in the military is big,” Haener said. He served as an artillery officer for 16 years before becoming a DOD contractor. “Here you do a lot of artwork. Those T-barriers don’t do themselves, you know,” he said, referring to hundreds of complex paintings found on concrete walls throughout military camps in Iraq.

Haener is leaving Iraq by the end of November, and is seeking someone to replace him as leader of the art club, a job that he says doesn’t take much.

“They know what they want,” Haener said referring to the Soldiers who periodically attend Anaconda’s art club. “You just get out supplies and let the kids get creative. Now, I call them kids, but they are Soldiers,” he joked.

Joking aside, he is on point. Soldiers throughout Iraq have been building clubs from scratch in order to express themselves through art.

At the Q-West Base Complex in northern Iraq, for example, a drama club recently attracted record-breaking crowds to an onstage performance of “Operation

Redneck.” The cast consisted of Soldiers who had to grapple with scarce supplies and lack of preparation time.

Further south in Camp Al Taqqadum, Soldiers independently run the Black Sheep Coffee House, a popular venue for “local talents” to express themselves through poetry or music. The Soldiers built the whole venue independent of any military funding.

Similarly, Anaconda’s art club was started without any official funding. The Soldiers and civilians who attend the club started with their own supplies. As news of their work spread, they started getting art material from well wishers at home, including Dusek.

Today, the club has a stockpile of material that ranges from water colors and paint brushes to bead stringing kits, and since there are no limitations from benefactors, those who attend the club can use the materials for whatever they please.

“I like to come here to do something that’s normal outside the military,” said Sgt. Lauran Robinson, a public affairs NCO with the 29th Brigade Combat Team. “You know, it’s fun. You don’t have to be Da Vinci or Michael Angelo to be in here.”

Anaconda’s art club meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. at the East Side MWR.



This untitled art piece by Spc. Jesse Link, a signal support systems specialist with the 463rd Engineering Battalion, is displayed with camo netting at LSA Anaconda.



Sgt. Mathew Campbell, an operations NCO with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, puts the finishing touches on his art piece. LSA Anaconda’s art club meets every Sunday at the East Recreation Complex at 1900. Soldiers are welcome to bring their own supplies or to use the supplies the club has free of charge.

The long stretch:

The 457th plays an important role

By Sgt. Ty Stafford
Staff Writer

The long stretches of road, the heat of the engine, the cumbersome tactical gear and, most importantly, the dangers of war take their toll on all weary travelers on the roads of Iraq.

For the 457th Transportation Battalion, from Fort Snelling, Minn., this is the day-to-day routine which they have done since their arrival in Iraq late last year.

The battalion, composed of a multi-component force of active duty, Reserve, National Guard and Air Force personnel, has logged more than 5 million miles on the main supply routes of Iraq and Kuwait during more than 1,700 combat logistics patrols.

The more than 1,500 personnel strong battalion, who supports the 18th Airborne Corps and 1st Corps Support Command at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, has traveled from as far south as the Kuwaiti border to the northern Turkish border transporting food, ammunition and nearly 9 million gallons of fuel to help support the Operation Iraqi Freedom troops.

“We support the corps. Whenever someone needs something moved, we get it done. We’re like the 9-1-1 for the corps,” said Maj. James Flanders, the support operations officer for the 457th.

The battalion consists of 11 line companies and has anywhere between nine to 12 convoys with 180 to 240 trucks on the road every day. Four of those line companies are gun truck support companies which provide the security to all outgoing CLPs from the battalion.

The lift assist capabilities include the Palletized Load System and the M915 5-ton truck with M872 40-foot trailers. The PLS truck and trailer form a self-contained system that loads and unloads a wide range of cargo without the need for forklifts or other material handling equipment.

The majority of the PLS lifts however, are from Kellogg, Brown and Root.

To help bridge the gap between civilian counterparts, the battalion has integrated the KBR staff.

See 457th on pg. 15

SKUNK WERKS

By Sgt. Ty Stafford
Staff Writer

New technology has helped to improve the armoring of humvees in Iraq. However, some units have taken it a step further by enhancing the armor with operational experience of what they need in the field.

One group in particular, the “Skunk Werks” shop maintained by the 457th Transportation Battalion, from Fort Snelling, Minn., has used the experience gained driving 5 million miles on the roads of Iraq to create useful. The five-man shop, along with Iraqi workers, produces equipment designed and vetted by the Soldiers of the battalion.

The Skunk Werks shop dates back to Operation Iraqi Freedom I with the 181st Transportation Battalion from Germany, who will return this month to take over the operation.

The operations of Skunk Werks is to build protection systems, mainly gunnery systems, shielding and under armor plating systems that the humvees do not have.

Other products made by Skunk Werks include bumpers for humvees, secondary bumpers for 5-tons trucks, ammunition can holders, fuel can holders and spare tire racks.

“It’s now not necessary to add up-armor because of the add-on armor now supplied by the Army. But when we started out it was just Level 3, up-armor we had to add on ourselves,” said Sgt. 1st Class Randall Pollard.

Pollard added that when the full-armor kits became available their focus became the gunnery systems because the vehicles, primarily 5-tons, came with turrets but no armor shield plates.

Pollard and his team use their collective civilian knowledge to help design the armor add-on systems they use in theater.

“All the guys that work in here had to prove they can do the job. Each one was given test plates to weld and had to show some type of certifica-

tion before they could start,” Pollard said. The Skunk Werks team has completed 1,180 work orders in their battalion and countless orders from outside units.

“A lot of the jobs now are coming from the different FOBs [forward operating base],” said Staff Sgt. Keith Baylor a Skunk Werks shop technician.

There are currently about 500 work orders on hand and more than 1,500 pieces of equipment needed to complete the jobs. Most of the equipment is drawn through the S-4 supply chain, but some equipment is provided by local nationals. Pollard added that a work order can be anywhere from one piece to several pieces depending on the job. Many products are prefabricated to help cut down production.

“When units come from other locations for a mission here, and they have the time, they stop by and see what we can do for them and put in a work order so they can hit the road with a little extra protection,” Pollard said.

The team averages 6 to 8 hours per job and 12 to 16 hours a day of work in the shop. The greatest achievement of the Skunk Werks shop however is not the number of jobs they

have done, but the outstanding achievement rate of their products.

“I enjoy what I’m doing and I think we are making a difference,” Baylor said.

“We have seen the benefit of what we do. None of our protective systems we created have been penetrated and to date we have not had any injuries in the battalion. We try to think of every safety measure possible. Everything we build is for the Soldier’s safety,” Pollard concluded.



Photo by Sgt. Ty Stafford

Medics look after Soldiers and detainees

By Sgt. Rachel Brune
101st Sustainment BDE

LSA DIAMONDBACK, Iraq – A language barrier is not something Army medics may see regularly in their military careers.

For the medics of Bravo Company, 101st Brigade Troops Battalion, the barrier is something to deal with on a daily basis at the Mosul Detention Facility here.

The 16-Soldier detachment takes turns rotating through duty at the facility, as well as running sick call at the 228th Combat Support Hospital, said Sgt. Jeffery Imel, detachment noncommissioned officer in charge.

The mission at MDF is health maintenance, making sure the detainees stay healthy and keeping track of those needing medications to manage various medical conditions, said Sgt. Christopher Williamson, the detention facility medical care NCOIC.

With the help of a translator, the medics perform initial medical screenings of all new detainees. The Soldiers make a medical folder for each detainee, recording vital signs and other pertinent information.

The physicians in the detachment perform a physical on each detainee within 24 hours of intake, Williamson said.

After drawing blood, taking blood pressure and administering intravenous fluids if needed, the physician makes a judgment of any further care based on the initial assessment.

The MDF medics conduct a daily sick call, visiting each cell to offer medical care, whether the detainees request it or not, Williamson said. At this time, the medics hand out needed medications to those detainees requiring them.

With the beginning of Ramadan, the



Photo by Sgt. Rachel Brune

Pfc. Nan Shih, B Co., 2-5 Field Artillery medic, assists Pvt. Jose Vargas, B Co., 101st Brigade Troops Battalion medic, as he gives an IV during their sick call shift on Oct. 7.

medics adjusted their schedule to meet the needs of detainees whose religious fasting requirements prohibit them from taking medication or having blood drawn during daylight hours, Williamson said.

The 194th Military Police Company, from Fort Campbell, Ky., provided the medics with the list of those detainees observing Ramadan. The company is winding up a one-year deployment taking care of the detention facility.

B Co. medics staff the detention facility 24 hours a day. In an emergency, the Soldiers can always reach one of the detachment's physicians on the radio.

The facility can hold about 350 detainees, according to Williamson. It currently holds about 150.

As an added precaution for the detainees' protection, the medics screen their charges before and after military intelligence screenings. They check for bruises, scrapes or other indications of abuse to make sure the detainees are treated properly.

"The medics who rotate through here are doing a pretty good job," Williamson

said. Although his Soldiers rotate between the facility and sick call at 228th CSH, he works solely at the facility.

"The interpreters have been doing this job for the past three years," Williamson said, when asked about the language barrier. He added, "I'm going to try to learn some Arabic while I'm here."

Elsewhere on Diamondback, detachment Soldiers run sick call at the hospital under the watchful eye of Spc. Jason Hale, sick call noncommissioned officer in charge.

"We are medics. We do see a lot of trauma," Imel said. "It's teaching the Soldiers quite a bit up there."

As detachment NCOIC, Imel coordinates support for Soldiers at outlying camps and makes sure the paperwork gets routed where it needs to go.

"I think the Soldiers are doing an excellent job out here," Imel said. Even with long weeks of 12-hour days, the Bravo Co. medics are keeping their morale up.

"Everyone's been working together and working pretty hard," Imel said.

Going on Emergency Leave?

Don't forget,



**you MUST
have civilian
clothes to
be able to
fly out!**

**Also make sure you
have a copy of your
orders on you at all
times, even when
you are at home!**

This year, Muslims celebrate Ramadan Oct. 4 to Nov. 2

**Please be sensitive to those who
observe this religious holiday.**

**News Reel
Anaconda**

Real Soldiers, Real News

Airing daily at the Sustainer Reel Time Theater

'Supergroup' packs bags for trip home

By Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux
Staff Writer

A sea of duffle bags lay in an orderly fashion on the well-lit basketball court across the street from the 46th Corps Support Group headquarters in Taji, Iraq on Oct. 7. A few Soldiers wearing desert combat uniforms guarded them.

Trucks and buses pulled up, and the basketball court came to life. Soldiers wearing the new army combat uniforms got off the vehicles and started downloading and regrouping more bags. The eyes of the Soldiers wearing the DCUs lit up. Their replacement, the 4th Sustainment Brigade had arrived.

The 46th CSG has spent almost a year in theater, arriving in Iraq in December of last year.

"We hit the ground running," said Col. Kenneth M. McMillin, the commander of the 46th CSG.

At first, the unit supported the 1st Cavalry Division, later, the 3rd Infantry Division. The CSG also provided support for the elections in Iraq, mostly by pre-staging supplies at forward operating bases, so when the roads were closed down, nobody had a shortage of anything, said Maj. Christopher K. Lanfried, operations officer of the 46th CSG.

A corps support group generally provides combat service support by delivering water, food, fuel, and assisting units on the battlefield with transportation and maintenance, explained Lt. Col. Thurington W. Harvell, the officer in charge of support operations in the CSG.

The 46th CSG successfully supported five brigade-size elements in an area of 7,200 square miles.

Among many other supporting activities, they averaged 200 combat logistics patrols a month.

As the three leaders reflect back on the year the unit spent in Iraq, the same tasks and events come to mind for all of them.

The most challenging task they thought was the setup and training of the 1st Motorized Transportation Regiment of the Iraqi army. This was not a mission a corps support group generally has to deal with.

"When we received the mission, it [the 1st MTR] was just a name. It didn't have any personnel or vehicles," Harvell said.

"There was no MTOE [modified table of organization], or training plan," Lanfried said.

The designated personnel of the 46th CSG developed a training plan, and successfully trained, equipped and outfitted the 1st MTR, to include armoring their vehicles. The training plan was later used to set up the 2nd and 3rd MTR, McMillin said proudly.

The unit also impacted the lives of local Iraqis by employing approximately 150 local national workers and an additional 30 local national translators, Lanfried said.

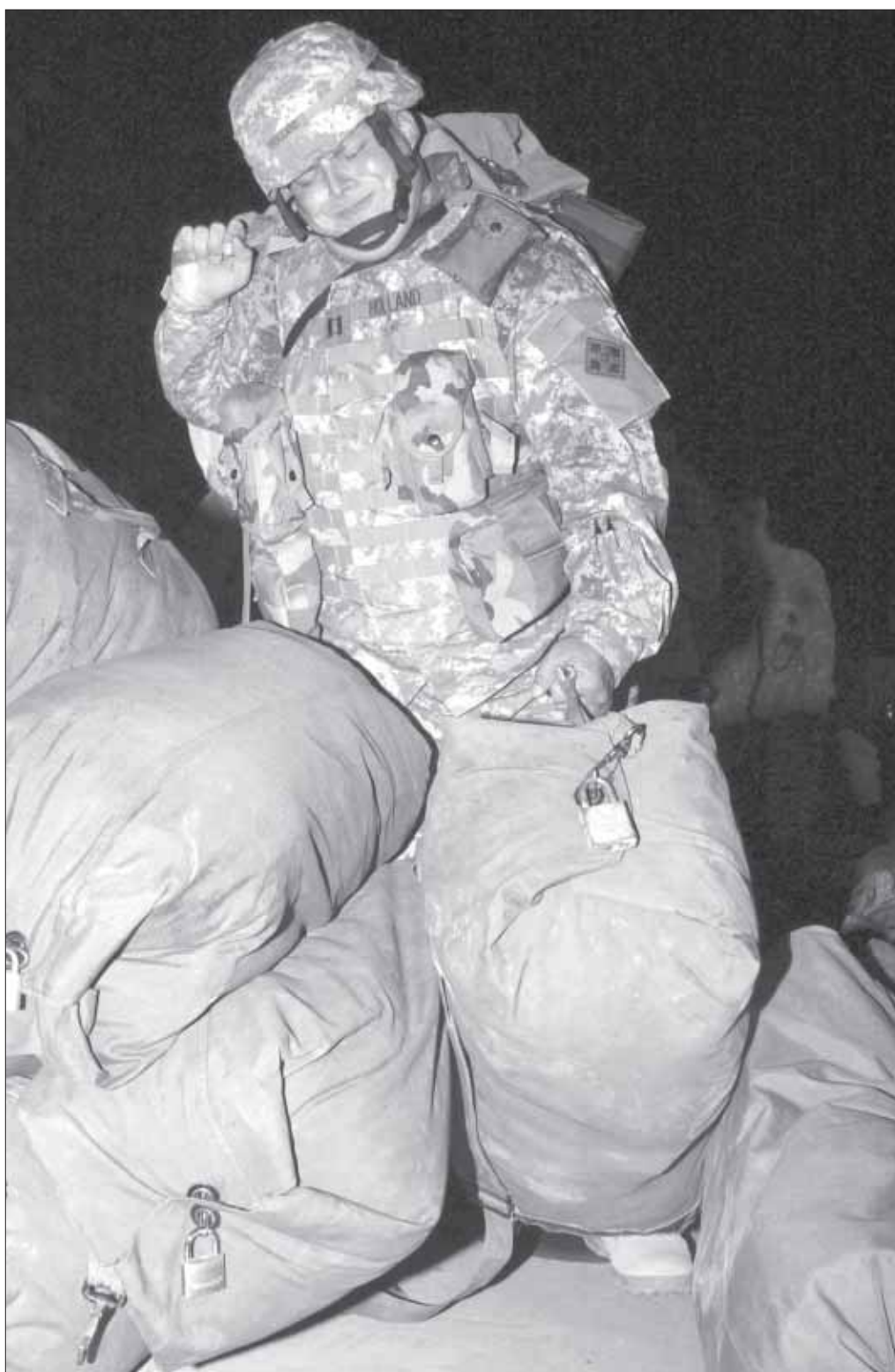


Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

Capt. Daniel A. Holland from the 4th Support Brigade struggles with his dufflebag on Oct. 7.

Another achievement the group commander is proud of, is how fast and effectively they armored their vehicles. The majority of the work was done in Kuwait between January and May of this year. By now, 90 percent of their vehicles have at least level two armor, allowing personnel to run missions off post.

Even though the CSG does support missions at Fort Bragg, those missions don't always compare to what they had to accomplish in theater.

"Here we are actually doing what we were trained to do, which you don't always get to do in garrison," Harvell said. He referred to handling water and food supplies or bulk fuel on a daily basis and running 24-hour operations in a combat environment.

After almost a year, Soldiers will go home with a sense of accomplishment, and knowing that they were part of an

important process.

"I think everyone has enjoyed the time they had over here. A lot of my guys learned stuff they normally wouldn't. It has been very educational for them. I think we will always remember coming over here and bringing democracy to Iraq," Lanfried said.

Harvell will most remember people he worked and lived with.

"We kind of brought the airborne mentality to support, that a lot of the units have not seen before," McMillin said. "Anybody that has been in an airborne unit understands the whole 'can do' attitude. The bottom line is, we don't say 'we can't do it,' we just say, 'hey we may not be able to do it like you want, but we will get it done.' That kind of filtered down to our battalions. There just hasn't been a mission that we weren't able to do this year."

4th ID arrives after training in Kuwait

By Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman
Sustainment Brigade PAO

The 4th Infantry Division made its return to Iraq as Soldiers of the division's Sustainment Brigade arrived at Camp Taji, Iraq, on Oct. 7.

Nearly 350 Soldiers left their home station of Fort Hood, Texas, starting on Sept. 18.

Soldiers trained for two weeks at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait. The training went from basic firing skills to close quarter marksmanship course and reacting to a suspicious vehicle at an entry control point.

The Soldiers' training reached its peak with live-fire convoys where Soldiers moved vehicles into defensive and offensive positions, moved disabled vehicles and requested medical evacuations for injured personnel.

Some Soldiers also experienced foreign weapons training.

Soldiers then flew to Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Iraq for a brief stay while the unit's primary staff went forward to Camp Taji to coordinate for a seamless move. After settling into their quarters, Soldiers began training with their counterpart of the 46th Corps Support Group, the unit they are replacing.

Col. Gustave Perna, the commander of Sustainment Brigade, set his priorities for the brigade transition.

"We are here at a momentous time," Perna said. "As the Iraqi government prepares for the referendum on the constitution, we pick up the mission of the 46th."

Perna warned that putting in a 12 to 16-hour day may be the norm, but encouraged Soldiers to continue their physical and spiritual fitness during the year deployment.

"I'm looking forward to getting busy," said Staff Sgt. Sandy Gribble, movement coordinator for the brigade. "Being busy makes the time go by faster. The transition is getting used to change. Once we are established things will run smoothly."

Sustainment Brigade will not only take on the 46th CSG's mission but will also take on the mission of another brigade. Perna said, "We are going to double the mission of the current unit."

Sustainment Brigade will be the one of the first units to live the Army transformation by taking on the mission of the 46th CSG and the mission of the 3rd Infantry Division's Sustainment Brigade.

"We are excited to take over both missions because we are trained and ready to do so," said Maj. Seth Serwood, Sustainment Brigade S-3.

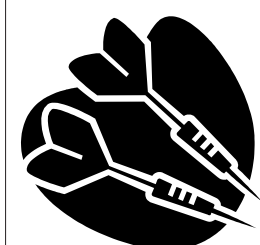
West MWR Schedule



Bingo nights at the
PANTHER PAVILION
SATURDAYS AT 8 p.m.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

at the
Panther Pavilion
Mondays at
2 p.m. and 8 p.m.



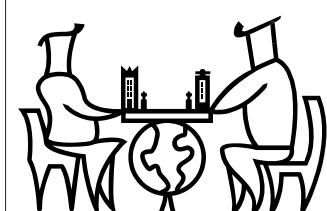
Darts Tournament

A darts tournament
will be held Sundays
at 8 p.m.



8-Ball Tournament

Tuesdays at
1 p.m. and 8 p.m.



Game Night

Game night
will be every
Friday at 8 p.m.
Games featured
will include Risk,
Battleship and
Dominoes.



**LSA Anaconda Soldier's
Legal Center**
DSN 829-1533/1538

Dedicated to providing a variety of
services including:

Powers of Attorney and Notaries
Citizenship Application Preparation and Immigra-
tion Issues
Divorce and Family Law Issues
Guardianships
Tax Services
Servicemember's Civil Relief Act Issues
FLIPL and Reprimand Rebuttals
Personnel Claims and Wills

LSA Anaconda Fitness Center

Pilates

The LSA Anaconda Fitness Center
offers Pilates classes at 5:45 a.m. Mon-
day, Wednesday and Friday.

Aerobics

There will be an aerobics class Mon-
day, Wednesday and Friday at 6 p.m.
Freestyle aerobics is Saturday at 9
a.m., and today at 1 p.m.

Karate

Karate classes will be Sunday,
Monday, Wednesday and Friday at
7:15 p.m.

Tae Bo

The LSA Anaconda Fitness Center
offers Tae Bo classes Tuesday, Thurs-
day and Saturday at 5:30 a.m.

Kobushi Sessen Jutsu

The LSA Anaconda Fitness Center
offers classes in the feudal warrior
combat art Tuesday, Thursday and
Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Capoeira

The LSA Anaconda Fitness Center
offers capoeira classes Sunday at 6
p.m and Monday, Wednesday and
Friday at 8:30 p.m.

Nihon Goshen Aikido

The LSA Anaconda Fitness Center
offers Nihon Goshen Aikido classes at
5:30 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday
and Saturday in the Sprung Gym.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Combatives

Classes will be
Sundays at 8:30 p.m. and Wednes-
days and Fridays at 8:30 p.m.

East MWR Schedule



Karaoke Night

Open-mike nights will
be every Saturday at 8 p.m.

Table-Tennis Tournament

A Table-tennis tourna-
ment will be every Sunday
at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.



The first
Sanctioned
Powerlifting
Competition
on Oct. 30



8-Ball Tournament

An 8-ball tourna-
ment will be held
every Monday at 3
and 8 p.m.

Going Home?

A Naval Customs will be holding
briefings for returning units. The
Breifings will cover MILVAN
inspection and restricted items.

The brief will cover container and
MILVAN inspections, prohibited items,
and tips on how to make the process go
well. Customs inspectors will be there to
answer questions

For questions and reservations call
MT1 McCreary:
829-1824

Movie Schedule

Sustainer Reel Time Theater

(schedule is subject to change)

October 23

3 p.m. Deuce Bigalow: European
6 p.m. Into the Blue
9 p.m. The Great Raid

October 24

3 p.m. Into the Blue
6 p.m. Deuce Bigalow: European
9 p.m. Dukes of Hazard

October 25

3 p.m. The Great Raid
6 p.m. Must Love Dogs
9 p.m. Into the Blue

October 26

3 p.m. Dukes of Hazard
6 p.m. Into the Blue
9 p.m. Deuce Bigalow: European

October 27

3 p.m. The Great Raid
6 p.m. Supercross
9 p.m. Into the Blue

October 28

3 p.m. Valiant
6 p.m. Two for the Money
9 p.m. Two for the Money

October 29

3 p.m. Supercross
6 p.m. Four Brothers
9 p.m. Two for the Money



Religious Schedule

Roman Catholic Mass

Wednesday 11 a.m. Air Force Hospital
Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 8 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex
Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(30 minutes prior to each mass)

Church of Christ

Sunday 11 a.m. Aviation Village 1/245th ATS
Conference Room

Samoan Congregational Service

Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 3 p.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
FHE 8 p.m. Provdiel Chapel Annex

Islamic Prayer

Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Friday 6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Protestant-Gospel

Sunday 11 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater
Sunday 11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel

Protestant Praise and Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th Spt. Bn.
Sunday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 11 a.m. Town Hall

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 7:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Religious schedule subject to change

Movie Synopsis for Oct. 23- Oct. 29

Supercross

PG-13, action, 92 min
Steve Howley, Mike Vogle

Two brothers overcome emotional and physical obstacles to achieve success in the competitive world of Supercross racing. The brothers' conflicts are magnified by their different life choices and their decision to become competitors and rivals. KC is a more cautious rider than his younger brother Trip, who has more natural talent but takes too many risks. When KC gets an all-expenses paid "factory" — corporate sponsored — ride, a rift forms between the two brothers. Trip is forced to go at it alone, becoming a "privateer" — a rider without a sponsor. But when a career threatening crash ends Trip's Supercross career, he and KC realize that they must put aside their conflicts, and work together to help KC defeat the world's greatest Supercross champions.

The Great Raid

R, drama, 132 min
Benjamin Bratt, James Franco

Set in the Philippines in 1945, "The Great Raid" tells the true story of the 6th Ranger Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Mucci who undertake a daring rescue mission against all odds. Traveling 30 miles behind enemy lines, the 6th Ranger Battalion aims to liberate over 500 American prisoners-of-war from the notorious Cabanatuan Japanese POW camp in the most audacious rescue ever.

Four Brothers

R, drama, 109 min
Mark Wahlberg, Andre Benjamin

After their adoptive mother is murdered during a grocery store hold-up, the Mercer brothers — hotheaded Bobby, hard-edged Angel, family man and businessman Jeremiah, and hard rocking Jack — reunite to take the matter of her death into their own hands. As they track down the killer, they quickly realize that their old ways of doing business have new consequences.

Into the Blue

PG-13, action, 110 min
Paul Walker, Jessica Alba

When four young divers discover a legendary shipwreck rumored to contain millions in gold at the bottom of the sea, they believe their dream of buried treasure has come true. But nearby on the ocean floor, a sunken plane full of illegal cargo threatens their find. The friends make a pact to keep quiet about both discoveries so they can excavate the shipwreck before a rival treasure hunter uncovers their secret and beats them to the gold. But their plan goes awry when they realize dangerous smugglers are already closing in on the missing plane, and one of the friends makes a fatal decision that quickly turns the treasure hunters into the hunted.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Mikeworth

Iraqis turn out to vote at a polling site in Zuhari, Iraq as an Iraqi army soldier provides security.

U.S. Soldiers watch from a distance as Iraqis vote

**By Sgt. Jason Mikeworth
Staff Writer**

Citizens across Iraq turned out amid heavy security to vote on a constitutional referendum to decide if the draft proposal should be approved.

Iraqi police and Iraqi army personnel took a more visible security role than during the January elections, with U.S. troops providing quick reaction force (QRF) teams and presence patrols. At the Zuhari polling site, U.S. forces stood at the ready nearby but out of sight.

"We're here in support of the referendum process. The main goal is to offer our services to the Iraqi police and army, however, we're staying away from the polling sites," said Spc. Bryon Hart, a light machine gun operator with K Troop, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment.

Taha Kadum, an Iraqi citizen working as a linguist with the U.S. Army, was proud to have been able to vote on the constitution.

"I think this is the first day of a good future. I hope they will say yeah for the constitution," Kadum said. "I want to see my country grow. I want to see my country more safe, more secure."

Kadum said it was a good feeling to see the Iraqi police and Iraqi army taking a more active role in providing security for the polling sites.

"I hope everybody [votes] today. I want to take more [steps] forward, not back," he added.

K Troop Soldiers conducted security patrols through several villages and along many rural routes to disrupt any attempts by anti-Iraqi forces to interfere with the voting process.

Although the day of the vote passed peacefully for K Troop, attacks in the time leading up to the vote claimed the life of Spc. Robert Tucker.

Tucker was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near the vehicle he was riding in after completing a mission to install concrete barriers at a polling site. Four other Soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Capt. Paul Shannon, commander of K Troop, said he

felt the Iraqi people have taken a huge step forward by coming out to vote.

He also felt that the Iraqi police and Iraqi army taking point on providing polling site security helps to show the progress that has been made in Iraq since the January elections.

"A lot of them have stepped up to the plate, taking this head on, and they've done a great job with it," Shannon said. "It takes many building blocks to build a country, and the constitution is one of the first blocks they need to build this country."

Some Soldiers hoped the referendum would bring Iraqis closer as a nation, helping to stabilize Iraq and allowing the U.S. to start drawing down the number of troops deployed here.

"If we can help this country become as great of a country as the United States, and help unite the people of Iraq, I think we will have accomplished what we're trying to do here," said Sgt. Ryan Ledbetter, a driver with K Troop. "Overall, I think the ones who vote are the ones who will be proud of themselves and are the ones trying to make a better life for them and their children."

K Troop Light Machine Gun Operator Sgt. Eric Dodson said, "I think it's a good thing because it shows that they're closer to taking over their own country and we can get U.S. forces back home a lot quicker. They've come a long way from Jan. 30 to Oct. 15."

Soldiers also said the voting process in Iraq had helped bring into perspective the election process back home.

"We have technology and computers [for voting]. Here they've got to protect the ballots with their lives," Dodson said. "We take for granted how easily we have that right back home, and these people are just now getting it and have to work so hard just to keep it."

Hart echoed Dodson's sentiments.

"We should look at this process and realize the freedom we have to vote. Reaching out to another country and teaching them the importance of voting should wake Americans up to see it's our freedom to do so."

Q and A with Iraqi soldiers on the eve of the referendum

**By Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda
Staff Writer**

On the eve of a general referendum on the new Iraqi constitution, *The Anaconda Time's* Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda and Capt. Christian Jenni sat with Iraqi soldiers of the 2nd Motorized Transportation Regiment, a logistics unit within the new Iraqi army. With the help of an interpreter, they recorded the soldiers' feelings about the referendum:

Col. "Jay R.," (49) a senior officer with the 2nd MTR who could not use his real name because disclosure would endanger his family:

Q: Are you looking forward to the referendum?

A: Oh yes, of course. This constitution will be the base for a new Iraq.

Q: Some people say that this is a Kurdish and Shiite constitution, not a constitution for the whole Iraq. Is that accurate?

A: That is not correct. Two days ago even one of the biggest Sunni organizations agreed to vote. A lot of Sunnis are in the government, one of them is the Minister of Defense. He's Sunni.

Q: Do you have Sunnis in your regiment?

A: We don't like to look at Sunni and Shiite in Iraq. We are all the same here. But yes, I have Sunnis. One time they asked me for two officers to go train outside the country and I sent a Sunni and a Shiite because they were my two best soldiers. If the best two were Sunnis, I would have sent them. We just need the best.

Q: How important is the constitution for the military?

A: Very important. I read the new constitution to my soldiers and I explained [to] them why it is important.

Q: But if it is so important, why have there been so many last minute changes and so many problems before going to the polls?

A: It's a new experience for Iraq, first of all. And there are some people who don't even want us to vote. These people, they are not Iraqis. Even yesterday they caught some people with [improvised explosive devises]. They were not Iraqis.

Capt. Mohammad Esare (32), an intelligence officer whose real name could not be disclosed because of the sensitivity of his job. He is a Sunni Muslim of Kurdish ancestry:

Q: Why are you voting?

A: For a new country, a new government, a new life. We need a different life in Iraq. Before, we had one president and we couldn't change him. Now that's different.

Q: Saddam Hussein held elections. Did you vote then?

A: [Laughs] Yes, I voted. I was in the army and I had to vote. There was only one [candidate] and we all had to vote - we all had to vote "yes" or we were dead.

Q: Why do you think some people are opposed to the constitution?

A: There are three types of people who don't want this constitution to pass or can't help pass it. One group doesn't trust the leaders, the political leaders, because it's hard to trust anyone after Saddam. It's hard to believe again. Another group is the people who were in power when Saddam was in power. They are scared that they won't have any more power. Then there [are] people who are scared because the terrorists said they would attack. They are afraid to go to the voting site, especially in the west of Iraq.

457th Transportation Bn.

continued from pg. 9

A KBR representative is permanently assigned to the battalion and confers with the operations section daily.

"We are one of the first to have KBR, operations staff and the convoy commanders working directly together in the same office," said Lt. Col. David Gaffney, battalion commander for the 457th.

As the transition from OIF II units to OIF III units took place, experiences and knowledge were passed down to create many new initiatives.

One initiative to help enhance their mission capabilities was setting up a validation process to certify their convoy commanders and assistant convoy commanders, said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Whade, battalion command sergeant major for the 457th.

The validation process includes mission time prior to request, meeting training requirements and getting signatures from their platoon sergeant and company commander before getting final approval.

The battalion also created a validation process for safety officers and loadmasters.

Each CLP has a safety officer and loadmaster assigned who have standardized checklists to ensure all procedures are followed to better ensure mission completion.

"The loadmaster has the primary responsibility to ensure that all the loads on the various trucks where properly located on the trailer and properly secured because once you are outside the wire a load shift would cause you to stop and puts the CLP in danger," Whade added.

In addition to the validation process, the battalion hosts a drivers and gunners conference every few weeks to keep each party informed of new tactics, techniques and procedures.

"We move, we shoot and we communicate. But most important is to survive," Gaffney said, "and this is done by focusing on training and proper execution of missions."

The validation process along with the CRAM (Commanders Risk Assessment Meeting), nightly commanders briefings, the 457th interactive CD-ROM, rehearsals and company-level leadership are all keys to our success, Gaffney said.

The Interactive CD-ROM with updated training materials was a year-long process.

"It is a resource for company commanders to use as a training tool to keep the Soldiers informed of new and updated training materials and is used as a guideline for future operations," Gaffney said.

The stringent training and safety program has led the battalion to the lowest accident rate for transportation battalions in the theater of operations, Gaffney added.

"Overall, I think the battalion is maintaining the momentum of the corps," Gaffney said. "Everyone understands it's about the CLPs. It's about moving supplies. Our mission is life or death."

By the end of this deployment the Soldiers of his battalion will have logged nearly 10 million miles on the road.

Besides the CLPs, the battalion had force protection responsibilities on Anaconda which took more than 80 Soldiers a day to support, Whade added.

It seems however, that the miles and operational tempo hasn't affected the battalion's morale. The battalion during this rotation has had 70 reenlistments compared to last rotation which only had 35, Whade said.

"The legacy they will leave behind is not the miles driven, but the way they conducted the missions while they were here," Gaffney said.

Special Task Force works together to secure Iraq

Sgt. Jason Mikeworth
Staff Writer

Helping secure Iraq is no easy task, but the Soldiers of Task Force 1/128th, are proving they are up to the challenge.

Based out of Forward Operating Base O'Ryan, the Task Force comprised of K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment and 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment has completed over 1,700 missions, including over 150 raids on suspected insurgent hide-outs, identification of close to 3,500 improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance and countless humanitarian missions to improve roads, assist in water purification projects and repair schools.

"We've probably handed out thousands of soccer balls," said Cpt. Paul Shannon, the commander of K Troop. "The guys really like that. That gives them an opportunity to see the little ones in a different light than some of the other individuals we have to deal with on a daily basis here."

The unit has overcome adversity and tragedy to accomplish their mission. The unit is comprised of Soldiers from both the Wisconsin National Guard and the Tennessee National Guard. Originally an armored cavalry unit, they traded in their tanks for M2 Bradleys and a dismounted lifestyle. They trained in their new roles for six months at Camp Shelby, Miss., before deploying to Iraq in December of 2004.

The terrain of Iraq also dictated additional changes to the way the unit conducts their missions. Their assigned area of operations contains a patchwork of dirt roads, rural towns and canals that don't always match the capabilities of the Bradleys. Shannon said the unit again had to adapt, this time from a mechanized style of unit to a hybrid of mechanized and motorized, mixing in more humvees, which were better suited to some of the landscape the unit had to cover.

"The guys handled all of the changes thrown at them extremely well," Shannon said. "I couldn't ask for anything better."

Staff Sgt. William Looper, a section sergeant and patrol leader with the 1/128th, said his primary mission is usually to clear routes of IEDs and disrupt Anti Iraqi Forces (AIF) activity. He said he feels the unit's mission is a very important part of achieving the Army's goals in Iraq.

"We have convoys traveling up and down through here. I truly feel that if I didn't go up and down through

there and somebody died, I'd feel bad about it knowing I went out on a mission and I didn't spot something. That keeps me going," Looper said.

Staff Sgt. Robert Tiedje, a squad leader with K Troop, said his squad usually operates as the lead vehicle for combat patrols, a job he described as being the eyes of the patrol.

"Our responsibilities include choosing what routes we're going to take, we have to be aware of ambushes and scan for IEDs," Tiedje said.

Tiedje said that searching for IEDs is a little more nerve racking than taking a hit from one.

"When you're looking for them it's unknown," Tiedje said, "but once it goes off then you know exactly what situation you're in, and if you're still there to fight after it went off you know you're probably OK."

Tragedy struck the 1/128th in August when an IED detonated under the lead vehicle of a patrol that was returning from a successful mission. Made from two anti-tank mines, the IED killed Staff Sgt. Victoir 'Vic' Lieurance and Sgt. Joey Hunt. The loss of two friends affected the unit deeply.

"It hurts losing somebody," Looper said, "but just knowing that we've got people out there that are willing to sacrifice that for what they believe helps us all keep going."

Soldiers helped each other deal with the grief by talking to each other.

"We did a lot of talking, a lot of soul searching," Shannon said. "They held together well and got back in the saddle."

The Soldiers of K Troop try to keep the mood around the unit light-hearted by joking, but never forget the seriousness of their mission. Maintenance is no joking matter and is one of the keys to their success, Shannon said.

"I have an excellent maintenance team here. Our OR [Operational Readiness] rate has consistently been 92 percent, and for the majority of the time it has been 100 percent for combat vehicles," Shannon said. "Sgt. 1st Class Billy Collins has been instrumental, along with his small group of guys, in keeping these tracks and these wheels turning. Without him, these [missions] would not have been possible."

With K Troop now preparing to redeploy to the U.S., some Soldiers have had a chance to reflect on the unit's accomplishments and the price they have paid for them.

"I hope it's all worth it," Tiedje said. "A lot of people are coming over here making a lot of sacrifices. I think time will tell."



Photo by Sgt. Jason Mikeworth

Soldiers from K Troop, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment, provide overwatch security during the constitutional referendum in Iraq. Iraqi police and Iraqi army personnel provided the main security at polling sites across Iraq.

AROUND 1st COSCOM



1st Lt. Mike Smith

And that's why democracy is good.

Staff Sgt. Josh Adams demonstrates blowing bubbles to children in Albu Assad.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

Are there slurpees?

This shop, named after 7-Eleven, in Mosul at Logistical Support Area Diamondback. There are no slurpees or coffee, but plenty of watches, blankets, transformers and movies.



1st Lt. Mike Smith

AAA in Iraq

Members of 3rd Platoon, Troop F of the 82nd Cavalry pull a humvee out of a mud puddle during a combat recon area patrol outside Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

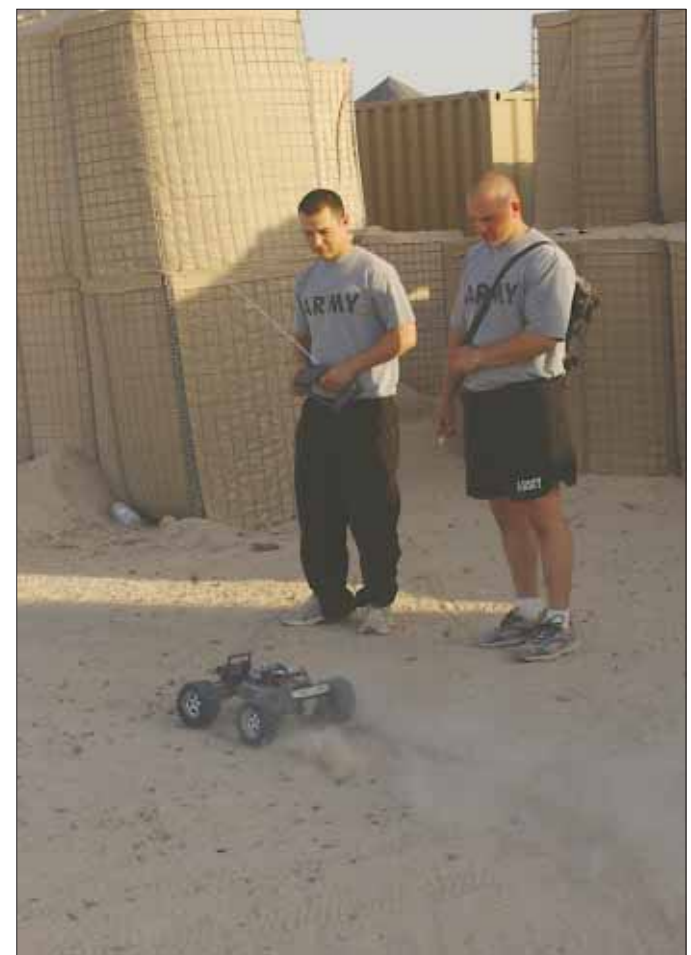


Photo by Sgt. Jason Mikeworth

Take it off any sweet jumps?

Soldiers from the 146th Transportation Company conduct their own version of driver training at Camp Al Taqqadum. It is unknown whether the Army will adopt the new technique.